

Dear (insert father's name here)

## **Your invitation to screening for sickle cell and thalassaemia**

Recent blood tests done antenatally have shown that the mother of your baby carries a gene for unusual haemoglobin. Haemoglobin is the substance in your blood that transports oxygen around your body.

**We are inviting your baby's mother (or if possible insert her name) to an appointment to discuss this result. We would also like to invite you to attend at the same time so that we can offer you a screening blood test. This quick and simple test will give you important information about whether you are a carrier and if this could affect the health of your unborn baby.**

**Your appointment is at:  
Date, time, place**

If you cannot make this appointment and would like to arrange another time or if you would like to talk to us confidentially please call (HCP name and number)

Your blood test will show if you are also a carrier for unusual haemoglobin. If both parents are carriers, there is a 1 in 4 (25%) chance that your baby could inherit a haemoglobin disorder. Some of these disorders are serious – and include conditions such as sickle cell disease and thalassaemia major.

You can decide whether or not to have this blood test but we strongly recommend that you read the enclosed leaflet, *Tests for dads*. This explains about the test and why it is important for your baby.

When thinking about the blood test, it is important to note:

- If you are a carrier, you are usually well. You will not know your carrier status unless you have had a specific blood test
- Your baby can only inherit a haemoglobin disorder if both you and your baby's mother are carriers
- It is a simple blood test lasting just a few minutes. Your results are confidential to you and your baby's mother. They will only be used for the health care of you and your baby and will not be passed to any other organisation

Yours sincerely